

Town of Lamoine, Maine

606 Douglas Hwy.

Lamoine, ME 04605

207-667-2242

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To: Selectmen

From: Stu

Re: Non-binding referendum, town meeting by referendum question

Date: January 8, 2010

In response to the discussion the other night, let me first propose a referendum question for the April 6, 2010 ballot:

Non-Binding, Advisory

☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you favor having all articles at the annual town meeting in 2011 decided by secret ballot referendum, eliminating the open town meeting format?

(Explanation: The Board of Selectmen seeks guidance as to whether the town favors continuation of the open town meeting form of government or whether it would prefer to vote only by secret ballot referendum. The outcome of this vote is advisory only and does not bind the Board of Selectmen to implement any particular style of town meeting format allowed by Maine State Statutes).

There are a number of questions that will need to be resolved if a pure referendum style of town meeting is pursued. I've attached an article from the May 2005 Maine Townsman and another article from a website called Keep ME Current that appeared in 2009. Both offer some good insight as to what is happening around the state.

I've also printed off last year's warrant for the town of Jay.

Some of the issues that we'll need to know are:

1. How will the budget be formatted? The present draft of the town meeting warrant offers approximately 14 budget questions. This could be boiled down into two major budget questions (expenditures and revenues), or you could keep the same 14 questions.
2. Will the town office ballot area be adequate to accommodate people wishing to vote on election day? The present warrant draft has at least 30 articles. This is likely to take each voter at least 15-minutes to complete. Normally, we open the polls at 10AM and close at 8PM (10-hours) and we have capacity for 8 voting booths. Assuming full capacity use at 15-minutes per voter, we could fit a maximum of 320-voters through the polls on Election Day.
3. What kind of public education will take place prior to Election Day? Who will do it?
4. How long will it take to count the votes on at least 30-questions.
5. What happens if a question fails? Do we shut down the transfer station if that budget fails?
6. How should we adjust the municipal budget in the case of multiple town meeting referenda?

7. Who will conduct the public hearing on the ballot questions prior to the vote?
8. How will the Selectmen gain insight and feedback on any issues that might fail – especially budget issues?

There are many more non-process questions I'm sure that will come to mind if the town instructs you to pursue this path.

Sm

Referendum-style Town Meetings: Is it a fad or a trend?

(from *Maine Townsman*, May 2005)

By Lee Burnett, Freelance Writer

For years, townsfolk in the tourist town of Ogunquit along Maine's southern coast have grouched about spending tax money for the visitor information center, which provides answers to all sorts of tourist-type questions that no year-round resident ever needs to ask.

But in the "raise your hand" atmosphere of an open town meeting, voters historically went along with giving \$30,000 to the Ogunquit Chamber of Commerce to help staff the center. This year, the town tried a new format for voting and put the entire town budget on a 54-article ballot. The result was a huge turnout of voters, who among other things gave an unsentimental thumbs down to the information center subsidy.

The defeat "was not a surprise to me," said First Selectman Charles Waite. Waite says the chummy atmosphere at (open) town meeting can intimidate people into voting for things they don't want or into not showing up at all. "People told me they didn't want to upset a business or a neighbor, which I think is weird. But that's how people felt," said Waite, who supports both the old town meeting format and the chamber subsidy. "...People didn't want to be seen as naysayers or stick in the muds. It was easier not to go (to town meeting) and complain about it afterward."

A small number of towns are reaching for the tonic of referendum-style voting to juice up democracy at the local level. To be sure, open town meeting remains sacrosanct in much of small-town Maine. It's more than an annual gathering to adopt a town budget (and often a school budget). It's also a neighborly confab, an institution that shapes a town's identity, and a tangible link to the past. But attendance at these time-consuming affairs isn't what it used to be. Some people claim they are too busy others say they don't feel welcome.

At least eight towns have abandoned open town meeting entirely. York adopted referendum voting in 1992, followed by Bradley in 1996, Jay in 1997, Lebanon in 2002, and then Jefferson, Ogunquit, Windsor and Monmouth in 2004. The Town of Berwick uses a hybrid approach and votes the largest items of its municipal budget by secret ballot with the rest decided at open town meeting.

In referendum town meeting, voters are given a ballot – which can be eight to ten pages long – and encouraged to bring notes and "cheat sheets" into the voting booth to help inform their decisions. In contrast, voters at the open town meeting accomplish their task through several hours of discussion, debate, procedural motions, and public votes.

Judging from the turnout, referendum voting seems hugely popular where it has been tried. Voter turnout in Ogunquit tripled after the switch to referendum voting. Jefferson saw a six-fold increase. Windsor doubled its turnout. Lebanon increased its turnout by ten times. For many people, it makes sense: not only is referendum voting more convenient than a four-hour town meeting, but it affords voters the option of absentee balloting. "If nothing else, it increases participation," said Jordan Freedman of Ogunquit, who helped bring referendum voting to Ogunquit.

The downside of all this involvement is the bull-in-the-china-shop syndrome. Sometimes, the crude instrument of referendum voting inflicts unintentional damage that must be undone at a later date. One year, Lebanon went without town hall services for six weeks (forcing the town clerk onto unemployment) before corrective action could be taken. Likewise, Jay went without its summer recreation program for one year and barely escaped a school shutdown another year. Many towns craft fall-back mechanisms to soften the downside of referendum voting because as Monmouth Town Manager Jason Simcock points out, "there's a lot at stake."

ACTIVISTS PUSH CHANGE IN OGUNQUIT

The impetus for abandoning the open town meeting in Ogunquit came largely from a population skewed heavily toward retired professionals from away. These folks have no particular allegiance to local traditions when they get involved in town government. And sometimes they're not even physically present, as perhaps a third of the year-round population of 1,200 takes off for Florida or other warm places in the winter. Voting by absentee ballot is big in Ogunquit.

Typical of the new breed of voter is Freedman, a retired electrical engineer who moved here five years ago and quickly got involved in the campaign to bring referendum voting to town. "This is not the first town where I've been exposed to the town meeting form of government," said Freedman, who has family roots in Massachusetts. "What I was concerned about really was the lack of representation. We have a population of over 1,000 and we're lucky if we get 150 to town meeting. From what I saw, a lot [of decision-making] was heavily biased."

Attendance at town meeting was hurt not just by snowbirds, but by the stay-home-at-night folks, and the shy-to-vote-in-public folks. "We have an elderly population – something like 65 percent of our population is elderly – and people don't like to go out at night," said Jack Leary, another prime mover behind referendum voting.

Some folks are just plain uncomfortable voting in public, he says.

"Suppose you're voting against the police budget and the police chief is sitting right behind you. Call it what you want, people don't want to raise their hand," said Leary, who retired here from the Air Force about nine years ago. "Town meeting didn't seem democratic to me... Town meeting is held at night and you get minimum voter participation."

Freedman and Leary might have been content with poorly attended town meetings were it not for their strong disagreement with a particular outcome of town meeting – support for the information center. Tourists are the mainstay of Ogunquit's economy and the town does a fair amount to support them. Local taxpayers fund four public bathrooms, a beach-sweeper, seasonal police officers to supplement the year-round force, and a large cadre of seasonal "community service workers" who staff parking lots, patrol the Marginal Way footpath and answer the basic questions of the tourists. But the information center was too much to ask from taxpayers, according to Leary and Freedman. The town had once staffed the center itself with town employees, but ended the practice and instead gave the chamber a flat \$30,000 to start its own service. When a first year payment became a second and a third year payment, that's when Leary and Freedman decided to act.

"They [the chamber] said it would be the last year of [town] support, then they denied ever making the statement. I felt like 'gee, what's going on here'" Freedman recalls.

A group calling itself – Voter Involvement Project – organized an initiative petition campaign, consulted with towns that had tried referendum voting and eventually carried the day.

When the votes were counted on April 2 following the first town budget referendum, three times as many people had voted (579 people) as had done so at the most heavily attended recent town meeting (180 people), according to Town Clerk Judy Shaw-Kagiliery. Significantly, more than half the voters (308) cast absentee ballots, she said. On the crucial question of whether to continue referendum voting in the future, voters agreed by a 2-1 margin, which was all it took to convert former skeptic Waite into a referendum supporter.

“I was pleasantly surprised,” said Waite. “People liked it. When you have 70 percent of the voters telling you one thing, you know who your boss is. ... If that’s what Ogunquit wants, that’s what I want.”

ANTI-TAX FLAVOR

As Ogunquit’s experience suggests, the movement toward referendum voting is not strictly about increasing voter participation or any of the other high-minded arguments brought to bear on the question. Invariably, it’s also about reversing an unpopular spending decision or rolling back taxes.

Many referendum proponents style themselves as taxpayers’ watchdogs battling “special interests” perceived to dominate at town meeting. “In my opinion, people who showed up at town meeting were people who had a vested interest in the schools or the fire department,” observes Wayne Parlin, leader of the Jefferson Taxpayer Information Network, which spearheaded referendum voting in that town. “If there were 60 people at the meeting, 30 of them would be firefighters, friends or family. You vote your group, which is not a good way to run a town.” Parlin was involved in the 2004 Palesky tax cap initiative and the group’s website contains links to several taxpayer rights groups.

Similarly, the 1997 petition calling for referendum voting in Jay is a classic (though misspelled) manifesto of taxpayer rights: “The [secret ballot] eliminates the FACTION SENERIO, which has been prevalent in the last several years at Jay town meetings,” it reads. “The select few, such as teachers, and special interest groups, will no longer be able to crowd the meeting for their self interest goals.”

In York, referendum proponent William Layman takes delight in telling the story of how the charter commission fought the school board, the board of selectmen, and “three newspapers” all the way to the Maine Supreme Court to bring referendum voting to the residents.

In Windsor, referendum champions Dale and Lynn Allarding are described by Selectman Jerry Neault as “certainly representing the taxpayer side.”

SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDA

Taxpayer anger is also fueling the switch to referendum voting on school budgets, according to James Rier of the Maine Department of Education.

"Taxpayers are frustrated. They think they can have more of a say [in referendum voting] than they could at district meetings," Rier said. "School boards hate referendum voting."

Fueling taxpayer anger are school boards that drag their heels in meeting the spirit of referendum voting even after it has been adopted, said Rier. "When a budget is defeated at referendum what often happens is the school board may try the referendum route once or twice, then it bring it back to a district meeting, load it with supporters and get it approved," he said.

The word about school budget adoption by referenda definitely seems to be spreading. Some 33 of 75 regional school districts – double the number 15 year ago – now vote by referendum on school budgets. SAD 51 (Cumberland and North Yarmouth) is the latest school district to consider the switch.

The State Board of Education devised a solution for school budget voting that combines an open district meeting with a follow-up "validation vote" held by secret ballot referendum within three days. Under the new model, called the "cost center summary budget" model, budgets must be developed according to a prescribed process and then submitted to an open meeting – where they are subjected to the usual discussion, modification if necessary and an up or down vote. Whatever budget is approved at town meeting is then subjected to a second "validation vote" – in a secret ballot referendum – within three days. Defeat at referendum automatically sends the budget back to open meeting and a subsequent validation vote.

To Rier's knowledge, only three districts have adopted the "validation vote" model – SAD 22 in the Hampden area, SAD 43 in the Rumford area, and SAD 63 in Poland. "The school side was very resistant to the change," said Rier.

CUTTING SERVICES

Cuts to government service often follow referendum voting. Lebanon first abolished its five-member police force by referendum voting in 1991, and used the referendum ballot for major town issues until 2002 when it did away with the open town meeting entirely.

"As long as we have referendum balloting, the police force is never coming back," predicts Lebanon Selectman Tom Potter, a proponent of both open town meeting and the police force. "We need it [police force] because we're gradually losing the state police and the sheriff's department."

In Ogunquit, not only did voters end the subsidy to the information center, but they also refused to fund the clean up following Fourth of July fireworks that draw thousands to town.

In York, one referendum-inflicted budget cut forced the school department one year to lay off 14 people, a cut unimaginable in town meeting days, said Layman. "They were cut bad. It would never have happened at town meeting. My God, no."

In Jefferson, referendum voters nixed the same social service agency requests two years in a row. "I find that very disturbing," said Selectman Rosa Sinclair. "Head Start, WIC, heating oil help. [That agency] covers a multitude of services that people want and need. In an open meeting, these things would have been discussed and more clearly understood."

RECONSIDERING THE CHANGE

In Jefferson, a contingent of current and former town officials are trying to resurrect open town meeting after a two-year trial with referendum voting. On April 28, selectmen received a petition with the requisite number of petition signatures asking for a revote on the referendum question. It came less than a month after referendum voters defeated the school budget and purchase of a new \$250,000 fire truck. The question may be on a June ballot along with the school articles.

"I believe in tradition to a certain extent," said Sheridan Bond, who fits almost anyone's definition of a town-hall insider. The former selectman is currently fire chief, Lincoln County Commissioner and husband of the town clerk and treasurer.

There's no reason for a town of 2,600 to abandon the open town meeting, he said.

"So far this whole operation has done nothing but cost us," said Bond, ticking off the expense of purchasing a voting machine, which he says needs to be reprogrammed every election to the tune of \$1,000.

He's particularly critical of the necessity of having to revote the school budget, which entails a new round of review, postings, a public hearing, and the expense of holding another referendum. "We've gone to all this expense when it all could have been done in one evening, or one afternoon," he said.

Bond calls referendum voting "a lazy man's way to run a town."

"There's a certain element in every town, as long as they're doing okay ... they don't care about anybody else," he said. "It's very dangerous when everyone is allowed to vote when they don't fully understand it."

Parlin said he takes the criticism in stride. "People are going to be upset. I see no difference whether you vote [at] town meeting or [by] referendum," he said.

FALL-BACK MECHANISM

Unlike most referendum towns, Jefferson has no fall back mechanism should a budget be defeated. If that happens, there's zero money to run that department. Selectman Rosa Sinclair said consideration was given to creating an option to revert to last year's budget, but a legal opinion helped sway selectmen who were already predisposed against it. Sinclair said she's skeptical voters would ever vote for this year's budget if they are given the choice of adopting last year's budget. "I think they'd do it year after year after year."

Defeat of a budget in Ogunquit automatically restores last year's budget.

Monmouth gives voters the option to revert to last year's budget. "What could happen is they don't support the fire department and also don't want last year's budget. I think the fire department would face a zero operating budget," explained Town Manager Simcock. He calls asking for permission to revert to last year's budget "insurance". "Hopefully, we'll be able to operate at least at last year's budget. There's a lot at stake."

In Windsor, instead of an up or down vote on each budget, voters have a choice of following the recommendation of the selectmen or the budget committee. Windsor also gives voters the option of adopting a "continuing resolution" to keep the town running on last year's budget until a new referendum can be scheduled.

Jay had a few close calls with running on empty and decided to move its voting back several months. "It came right down to school starting and no school budget," said Jay Town Manager Ruth Marden. Jay votes in April. "That way, if you have to have two votes, you have time."

EDUCATING VOTERS/OTHER ADVICE

Even proponents of referendum voting concede that it won't work without extra effort to educate voters. Referendum voting comes with none of the compulsory education that is part of the open town meeting experience. (You can't vote until the moderator has explained the article and called for debate.) To compensate, selectmen usually hold extra hearings and send out voluminous mailings explaining each article.

"The one [opponents'] argument that has any validity is that referendum voters would not be informed, they would not be exposed to the give and take of town meeting. But that's really not quite true," said Ogunquit's Freedman. Ogunquit selectmen, for example, "did an excellent job" mailing out voter education pamphlets in advance of the vote and scheduled two informational sessions, each of which was rebroadcast on local access cable channel three times in advance of the vote, he said. "The last informational session, people were getting up yelling, arguing. That was democracy," he said.

Referendum voters aren't as easily swayed as town meeting voters, observes Jerry Neault, selectman in Windsor. "At town meeting, you have informal leaders. If you play to them, you're all set, which is not necessarily a bad thing," said Neault. Windsor published a tabloid-sized newspaper guide to ballot questions, which was mailed out bulk rate to all registered voters. "You've got to go out of your way to educate," said Neault.

The other bits of advice veterans of referendum voting offer are: keep the ballot to a manageable length so voters don't lose patience, and purchase a voting machine because counting ballots with 40 or more articles would be prohibitively slow without them.

"We went from 80-some odd articles to 44," said Jay Town Manager Ruth Marden. "It was more a matter of ease of balloting. We thought people would get so tired after 80 articles that they would just vote 'no, no, no.'" She said now it takes 15 to 30 minutes.

. Town meetings disappearing

Posted: Thursday, August 13, 2009 3:20 pm | *Updated: 3:27 pm, Thu Aug 13, 2009.*

By Ben Bragdon | [0 comments](#)

Sebago has joined the list of Lakes Region towns debating the future of the annual town meeting, marking the continuation of a small but growing statewide trend as local officials try to get citizens more involved in government.

In Sebago, where the town meeting draws 60-80 residents out of around 1,400, selectmen are researching a switch to a referendum-style town meeting, in which residents approve the budget at the ballot box rather than in an open forum, said Chairman Allen Crabtree. It is a conversation that has already occurred this year in Gray, Windham and Raymond. Gray voters will vote on the switch in November.

Those communities are following in the footsteps of other towns that have made the switch in recent years, said Michael Starn, director of communications and educational services at the Maine Municipal Association.

Around 20 Maine towns have moved to the referendum-style vote from the traditional open town meeting, a piece of New England history that predates Maine's birth as a state, said Starn. Of the towns that have switched, only three did so prior to 2000, he said. Most of the changes have occurred between 2004 and 2007, and most were done in order to get more participation from residents.

According to Starn and an assortment of town managers who have gone through a switch in town meeting style, a referendum does get more citizens involved. But it also makes it more difficult to explain to the public the matters up for a vote, since not all voters are in the audience as at a town meeting, and a greater burden is put on municipal officials to get information into the hands of residents.

"Referendum-style town meetings do get more participation," wrote Starn in an e-mail. "But, they also give up the opportunity for discussion and debate at the town meeting. Referendum-style town meetings are more costly and administratively complex. Defeated items have to be re-voted and it is sometimes difficult for the town officials to determine whether residents want to spend more or less on rejected budget articles."

Starn's comments, both on participation and the potential complexity of a referendum-style town meeting, are backed up by reports from the communities that have made a change.

In Monmouth, a town of just under 4,000, around 100 residents would typically attend an open town meeting. The referendums bring 500-700 people to the polls, said Town Manager Curt Lunt. The same scenario played out in Waldoboro and Jay as well, both of which see five or six times the number of residents cast a ballot on a referendum as at a town meeting.

But the towns have also encountered some bumps along the way.

In Monmouth, where the budget has been approved at the polls for five years now, town officials have seen the police budget shot down twice this year and are preparing for a third vote.

"You ask people afterward what happened, but you're never sure," said Lunt. "We've had difficulty trying to figure out why the police budget has gone down, whether it was because it was too high or because of attitudes toward the police."

Bill Post, town manager in Waldoboro, which voted to switch to a referendum-style town meeting in 2006, switched back to an open meeting in 2007, then reversed again in 2008, has been through the same experience.

"Open town meeting allows for debate and amendments to articles on the floor. Referendum voting does not," said Post. "This can lead to some confusion if an article does not pass because there is no way to know what the voters thoughts are in rejecting any particular question."

The key, said Post, is making sure the electorate understands the questions on the ballot when they come to vote. It is a task that bears heavily upon town officials, he said.

"Referendum voting takes more work on behalf of the town manager and

department heads simply because we do not have the opportunity to answer

questions on the floor at town meeting," said Post. "It is imperative that we get our

message out to the voters in some manner so that they are informed on the

proposed budget and other town meeting warrant questions, whether they are

ordinance revisions, or other questions of business."

To that end, Post sends out a quarterly newsletter to all residents. In addition, public hearings are held before the warrant is finalized for the referendum vote.

Ruth Marden, town manager in Jay, takes much the same approach. When an article raising money for an industrial assessment of Jay's mills failed five years ago, town officials figured it was because people did not fully understand the question, and they came back with a plan.

"What we did was mass education, and it passed the next time," she said.

The town holds two public hearings before the budget is finalized for a vote, one before the warrant is complete and one after, Marden said.

"Once in a while, I come across somebody who'll say, 'If there was an open town meeting, we could debate,'" said Marden. "My comeback is, that is why we have two public hearings."

But in order for that to work, Marden said, the town officials have to listen to the opinions of residents, and be willing to make changes to the budget as a result of the comments.

"You have to have an open board," she said.

Residents have to do their part as well.

"We want input from the community," said Marden. "The hearings are very poorly attended, but the opportunity is there if people have concerns."

Ultimately, she said, deciding on a form of government is up to the people, and the residents of Jay have decided year in and year out at the polls for a referendum.

"Every year, the last question is, 'Do you want to continue with the referendum-style?' Marden said. "And, overwhelmingly, the answer is yes."

It is a question that will soon be facing voters in Gray. In Windham, town councilors tossed the idea aside after learning that a change must begin with a citizen's petition separate from the council, and in Raymond the discussion has not risen past idle comments.

In Sebago, it is a conversation worth having, said Crabtree, the chairman of the Board of Selectmen. It is a complicated issue, with arguments on each side, and the town will likely move slowly with any action, he said. The town officials want more people to get involved, but they also want them to have a voice.

"I guess I'm not ready to throw in the towel that we can't get more participation at our traditional town meeting," said Crabtree.

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

TO: LARRY WHITE, A CONSTABLE IN THE TOWN OF JAY, COUNTY OF

FRANKLIN, STATE OF MAINE:

In the name of the State of Maine, County of Franklin, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Jay, in said County, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the Jay Community Building, in said Town, on Monday, the 27th day of April A.D. 2009 at 9:00 A.M. in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1

To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2

To choose by ballot the following Town Officers, for the ensuing year in accordance with Title 30-A Section 2528, of the Revised Statutes of Maine for the year 1964 and amendments thereto, to wit: Two Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, First & Second for three years: and Two Members of the School Board, one for one year and one for three years:

To vote by ballot the following warrant articles for the ensuing year in accordance with Title 30-A Section 2528, of the Revised Statutes of Maine for the year 1964 and amendments thereto.

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to lapse the overdrafts and unexpended balances.

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to set October 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010 as the date that property taxes are due and payable.

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to levy and accrue interest at the rate of eight (8%) per annum on property taxes that are unpaid after October 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010.

ARTICLE 6

Shall an Ordinance entitled "Twenty-Third Ordinance Amending the Jay Environmental Control and Improvement Ordinance" be enacted?

ARTICLE 7

Shall an Ordinance entitled "Shoreland Zoning Ordinance for the Municipality of Jay, Maine" be enacted?

ARTICLE 8

Shall an Ordinance entitled "Ordinance to Establish a Board of Appeals" be enacted?

ARTICLE 9

Shall an Ordinance entitled "Town of Jay, Maine, Town Way Ordinance" be enacted?

ARTICLE 10

To see if the town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of last years annual budget during the period from July 1, 2009 to Oct 1, 2009 or until a budget is passed for the 2009-2010 year in the event any budget fails.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$528,635.00 for Town Government.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$142,992.00 Professional Services.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$105,295.00 for Buildings & Grounds.
(includes building maintenance, Christmas decorations, cemetery care and animal control)

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE 14

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$784,574.00 for the Police Department

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE 15

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$240,240.00 for the Fire Department.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

INSURANCE

ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$158,501.00 for Insurance.
(workers compensation, liability, unemployment)

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

SEWER MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS

ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$544,100.00 for Sewer
Maintenance/Repairs.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$993,970.00 for Waste Disposal.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

AMBULANCE SERVICE

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$54,929.00 for Ambulance Service.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

HIGHWAY

ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,376,500.00 for Highways.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

PAVING CAPITAL RESERVE

ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$350,000.00 for Paving Capital Reserve.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

BUILDING INSPECTOR/DEPUTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$11,176.04 for Building Inspector/Deputy Code Enforcement.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

DONATIONS

ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,800.00 for Red Cross.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,000.00 for Jay Historical Society.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,000.00 for Abused Women's Advocacy Project.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: NO

ARTICLE 26

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,430.00 for Work First (Formerly Sandy River Rehab)

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 27

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,600.00 for the Children's Center.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 28

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$8,330.00 for Spruce Mountain Insurance.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 29

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$6,860.00 for Spruce Mountain Maintenance.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 30

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$5,000.00 for Spruce Mountain Fuel Fund.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 31

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$4,000.00 for July 4th.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 32

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$150.00 for the American Cancer Society.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 33

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,000.00 for the Jr. Ski Team.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 34

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$500.00 for Tri-Town Ministerial (food cupboard).

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 35

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$700.00 for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 36

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$750.00 for North Jay Grange.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 37

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$2,000.00 for Community Concepts.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: NO RECOMMENDATION

ARTICLE 38

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,000.00 for a Pulp & Paper Museum.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 39

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$175.00 for Western Maine Veterans.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ARTICLE 40

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$1,315.00 for Healthy Community Coalition.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

DEBT SERVICE

ARTICLE 41

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$284,291.52 for Debt Services.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

LIBRARY

ARTICLE 42

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$160,389.00 for the Library.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

HYDRANT RENTAL, WATER AND STREET LIGHTS

ARTICLE 43

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$291,820.00 for Hydrant Rental, Water and Street Lights.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

REVENUES TO REDUCE TAX COMMITMENT

ARTICLE 44

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all revenues received, that are not dedicated or otherwise appropriated for other expenses, to reduce the tax commitment. Estimated amount

\$3,048,041.00

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

SNOWMOBILE FUND

ARTICLE 45

Shall the Town vote to appropriate to the Jay Snowmobile Fund the payment received annually by the Town of Jay from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from snowmobile registrations paid by Jay citizens.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

ATV CLUB

ARTICLE 46

To see if the town will vote to appropriate \$1.00 (one dollar) for each ATV Registration that is done in the Town of Jay to the Western Maine ATV Club.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

SUMMER RECREATION

ARTICLE 47

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$22,624.00 for Summer Recreation.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

CHANNEL 7 TRANSFER

ARTICLE 48

Shall the Town vote to appropriate the Cable TV Franchise Fees received annually by the Town of Jay from our Cable TV Company for the support and operation of Public Access TV.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: YES

TOWN MEETING VOTING

ARTICLE 49

To see if the Town will vote by secret ballot on all warrant articles at the 2010 annual Town Meeting.

JAY SCHOOL SYSTEM

ARTICLE 50

Do you favor approving the April 14, 2009 school budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the latest town meeting and that includes locally raised funds that exceed the required local contribution as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act?

A YES vote allows additional funds to be raised for K-12 public education.

A NO vote means additional funds cannot be raised for K-12 public education.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: